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October 21, 2019

Hon. Nita M. Lowey  
Chairwoman  
House Committee on Appropriations  
H-307, the Capitol  
Washington, DC 20515

Hon. Richard C. Shelby  
Chairman  
Senate Committee on Appropriations  
S-128, the Capitol  
Washington, DC 20510

Hon. Kay Granger  
Ranking Member  
House Committee on Appropriations  
1016 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Hon. Patrick Leahy  
Vice Chairman  
Senate Committee on Appropriations  
S-146A, the Capitol  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairwoman Lowey, Chairman Shelby, Ranking Member Granger, and Vice Chairman Leahy:

When the House of Representatives and the Senate meet to reconcile the differences between their versions of the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2020, I respectfully ask you to provide the highest level of funding feasible for the English Language Acquisition account. I believe it is critical for children living in the United States to master English in addition to their native language. Being proficient in English—and being bilingual—opens many economic and social doors that would otherwise remain sealed shut.

As you know, the House-passed bill provides \$980.4 million for English Language Acquisition, whereas the Senate bill provides \$737.4 million—the same funding level that has been provided from FY 2015 through FY 2019. Instead of flat funding this important account for the sixth consecutive year, I respectfully ask you to provide as close to the House-passed funding level as possible.

I support a meaningful increase to the English Language Acquisition account for its own sake, but also because it will facilitate passage of my bipartisan bill to fix a flaw in the statutory formula that the U.S. Department of Education uses to allocate English Language Acquisition funding to

the 50 states and the District of Columbia. See H.R. 3609 (115<sup>th</sup> Congress). As the report accompanying the House-passed bill observes:

The Committee is aware that the statutory formula used to make English Language Acquisition allotments to States, set forth in Section 3111(c) of [the Elementary and Secondary Education Act], does not fully capture children and youth who relocate from the U.S. territory of Puerto Rico, where Spanish is the primary language of instruction, to one of the 50 States or the District of Columbia. The Committee recommended funding is intended to help in addressing this need.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,



Stephanie Murphy  
Member of Congress

cc: Hon. Rosa DeLauro, Chairwoman, House Committee on Appropriations, Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies

Hon. Roy Blunt, Senate Committee on Appropriations, Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies

Hon. Tom Cole, House Committee on Appropriations, Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies

Hon. Patty Murray, Senate Committee on Appropriations, Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies